

New and updated information is in italics.

Virginia Emergency Operations Center
Hurricane Ophelia
Situation Report #4

Operational Period 0700 Hours September 14, 2005 to 1400 Hours September 14, 2005

SITUATION:

Hurricane Ophelia is projected to impact the Commonwealth beginning early Thursday morning and ending as late as Thursday evening with tropical force winds and significant rainfall.

Governor Mark R. Warner declared a state of emergency within the Commonwealth on September 12, 2005, directing the Virginia Emergency Operations Center to coordinate preparedness efforts in anticipation of Hurricane Ophelia. This declaration allows state agencies to take actions specific to Hurricane Ophelia.

WEATHER:

A Hurricane warning has been extended North to the North Carolina/Virginia border. A Hurricane Watch and Tropical Storm warning are in effect from the North Carolina/Virginia border North to Cape Charles Light including the southern Chesapeake Bay south of New Point Comfort, including Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, Hampton, Poquoson, Suffolk, York and Newport News.

*Ophelia appears to be moving toward the North-Northeast near 6 mph. A gradual turn to the Northeast at a slightly faster forward speed is expected to occur by tonight. **As this remains a slow forward motion track, changes could occur that increase impacts on the Commonwealth.***

*Ophelia has become better organized with maximum sustained winds near **85 mph** with higher gusts. The storm remains a Category One hurricane with the **possibility of strengthening to a Category Two status.***

Hurricane force winds extend outward up to 50 miles from the center and tropical storm force winds extend out 140 miles from the center. Minor coastal flooding will be possible along the Atlantic shoreline and Southern Chesapeake Bay today and Thursday with a storm surge of 1 to 3 feet.

Tropical Storm force winds and gusts will likely overspread areas of Southeast Virginia early Thursday morning for a period of approximately 12 hours. The heaviest rainfall is expected tonight through Thursday. Coastal sections and counties in Southeast Virginia could see from 1 to 3 inches of rain with locally higher amounts. This rainfall could produce isolated urban and street flooding.

VIRGINIA EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTER STATUS:

The VEOC went to Hurricane Readiness Condition 1 as of 1700 hours on September 13th.

ONGOING STATE ACTIVITIES:

- **Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM/VEOC)**
 - Monitoring the forecast of Hurricane Ophelia.
 - Fully augmented EOC and coordinating VERT response through September 16.
 - Monitoring North Carolina response activities.
 - Assessing availability of resources.
 - State SAR assets were put on alert as of September 11th at 1315 hours. SAR teams in Region 5 will report their status after the storm passes. SAR teams in Region 1 are offering fallback sheltering options for those Region 5 members who may choose to evacuate.
 - *PIO has handled over 15 phone calls pertaining to Hurricane Ophelia and managed 3 television interviews.*
 - *Local Liaison Section will conduct outreach to all localities in Region I and V this afternoon.*
 - Daily conference calls with US Coast Guard, FEMA, Region V and military units in the Tidewater/Hampton Roads area.
- **Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)**
 - *Mid-Town Tunnel testing completed and successful.*
 - *Conference call with Hampton Roads District.*
 - *Tiger teams on standby.*
 - *Monitoring storm.*
 - *Providing VDEM with GIS staff support for the next three days.*
 - Reviewing hurricane preparedness checklists with emphasis on the Hampton Roads area.
- **Virginia State Police (VSP)**
 - *75 Troopers, 5 supervisors and a swift water rescue team sent to Division 5 Headquarters in Chesapeake. Further deployments are planned for that location.*
- **Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (VDCR)**
 - Will begin evacuating eastern facilities.
- **Virginia Department of Corrections (VDOC)**
 - Monitoring Hurricane Ophelia. No evacuation of facilities anticipated.
 - *300 individuals on stand-by to fill sandbags.*
 - *3600 Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) available immediately if needed.*
 - *Arranging for staffing of VEOC until Friday, September 16.*
 - *Available to take requests for transportation vehicles.*
- **Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF)**
 - Despite deployment and other in-state response activities (Dismal Swamp Fire), the use of part-time personnel to augment the staff has meant that resources are deemed adequate to continue Hurricane Katrina response, fire suppression activity, and Hurricane Ophelia response if necessary.

- *Two personnel are managing commodity staging area established near Emporia. Currently there are 150 trucks of water, 100 trucks of ice, and 13 trucks of MREs at this location.*
- *Staffing the ESF4 desk at the VEOC along with Local Liaison support.*
- *20-person chainsaw/labor crew deployed to Marietta, GA to the FEMA Mobilization Center have been diverted to assist with Hurricane Katrina.*
- *Two personnel are staffing the agency's Command Center in Charlottesville and at least one person is assisting in each of the agencies six Regional offices as necessary to assist with crew deployments and supports.*
- **Virginia Department of Health (VDH)**
 - *Staff alerted and on stand-by.*
- **Virginia National Guard (VNG)**
 - *The Task Force Norfolk Engineering Unit deployed 100 guardsmen to the Norfolk Armory and the Onancock Armory to provide assistance with evacuation and debris clearing.*
 - *National Guard EOC at Fort Pickett is conducting mission analysis and planning to support a potential request from VDEM and FEMA to assist in distribution of food, water and ice in the event Ophelia makes landfall and causes widespread loss of water and power.*
- **Virginia Information Technology Agency (VITA)**
 - *Monitoring progress of the storm.*
 - *Deployed 26 laptops from DGIF to VDEM for use in the EOC.*
 - *Scheduled three support personnel for Wednesday AM and PM shifts.*
 - *Arranging for staffing during the next 24-48 hours.*
 - *Made plans to contact all partner agencies in tidewater area, through Enterprise Service Director (ESDs) and Service Level Directors (SLDs) and ensure notification and readiness procedures were well communicated to them.*
- **Department of Fire Programs**
 - *Monitoring the storm's progression.*
 - *Staffing the VEOC.*
- **Department of Social Services (DSS)**
 - *Staffing Human Services functions at the VEOC.*
 - *Monitoring activities with Red Cross, Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and VDEM volunteers and donations.*
- **Department of General Services (DGS)**
 - *Providing goods and services resources availability information per requests.*
- **Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC)**
 - *Monitoring readiness of electric co-op providers (including: Mecklenburg Electric, Southside Electric, and Community Electric).*
- **Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (VDACS)**
 - *Staffing Human Services-Food and Agriculture function at VEOC.*

- *Coordinating with food sources to determine availability.*
- **Chesapeake Bay Bridge-Tunnel**
 - *Monitoring storm conditions in anticipation of implementing vehicular restrictions.*
- **Dominion Virginia Power**
 - *Resources on stand-by from the Eastern, Central and Northwest regions.*
- **Red Cross**
 - *Monitoring activity in response to Hurricane Ophelia.*
 - *Developing and updating sheltering and feeding plan, will implement if necessary.*

CONTIGUOUS STATE'S ACTIONS:

- **NC Situation:** NC EOC – NC Governor declared a State of Emergency. State EOC in Raleigh continuing 24-hour operations.

LOCAL ACTIONS:

- Monitoring Hurricane Ophelia.
- Initiating public awareness messages.
- Local Emergency has been declared by James City County and *City of Chesapeake.*
- *Norfolk City closed floodgates as a precautionary measure.*

OTHER ACTIVITIES:

- Emergency Response Team – Advance (ERT-A) from FEMA Region 3 is in place.
- *FEMA USAR Task Forces from Fairfax (Task Force-1) and Maryland (Task Force-1) sent to Virginia Beach.*
- *Department of Defense (DOD) Defense Coordinating Element (DCE) in place.*

PROJECTED FUTURE ACTIONS:

- Continue to develop Public Affairs Strategy for addressing expectations for response and recovery as part of a preparatory message.
- Re-check Stand-by Emergency Contracts and Mutual Aid Agreements for implementation.
- Revise Incident Action Plan (IAP).

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